

Blum: All of IIT? Why?

Graham: All of it. IIT and the professors didn't like my building on the sacred ground next to Mies's building [860-80 Lake Shore Drive] and that I was building a taller building. They were all opposed to it at the time.

Blum: They thought it would take away from Mies's thunder?

Graham: Right. It was a tube structure. Myron wasn't into tube structures then, I can prove that.

Blum: Was this your first tube?

Graham: No, the first one was really Brunswick. Then I think that Shell Plaza was before that. But Barney Weissbourd was the one who asked me to do the DeWitt-Chestnut. The reason it's so tall was that I was supposed to have two low buildings like all the IIT people thought I should have, like Mies's. It was dead wrong. It was better to put everything in one building and make it taller so that my building and Mies's were further apart and so that my building did not block the view of 860-880 Lake Shore Drive.

Blum: So your design was in deference to Mies and not in competition with him?

Graham: Absolutely! One hundred percent. How could I move this building further and further away? That was proven, you can talk to any of the people that work with Barney and ask them. There's no question about that. Myron had no decision to make on that building. I did, with Faz.

Blum: The team that listed included you and Faz and Myron.

Graham: Yes, but Myron was the studio head. Natalie du Blois was a studio head. I had studio heads all over, but I made the designs. There's no doubt about